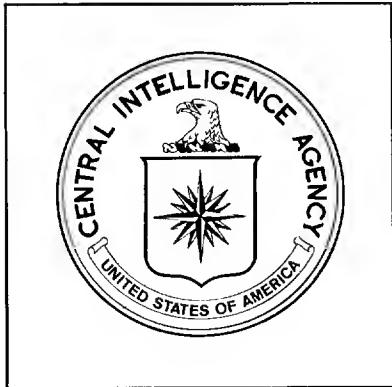


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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Turkish-East European Relations Improve

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Ankara has stepped up contacts over the summer months with several of its Communist neighbors. The general mood of detente in Europe facilitates such activity, but the Turkish moves also reflect a growing concern about Greek diplomatic initiatives in the Balkans and the long-term implications of the US arms embargo for Turkey's foreign policy.

Diplomatic activity between Turkey and Eastern Europe as well as the Soviet Union has included:

- Reciprocal visits of high-level Romanian and Turkish officials and the signing of a joint declaration of good will.
- A meeting of high-level Bulgarian and Turkish leaders at the border and a visit of the Bulgarian foreign minister to Ankara.
- A Turkish-Czechoslovak trade agreement.
- A Turkish-Soviet economic agreement and an unusually warm statement by Turkish President Koruturk about Soviet-Turkish relations.
- A Turkish-East German trade agreement.

While the focus of much of this activity has been economic, there are political overtones. The Turks have no desire to fall behind other West European countries in pursuing detente, and their increasing contacts with Eastern Europe can be explained in part by what one Turkish diplomat called normal adjustments to "post-Helsinki realities." The Turkish diplomatic maneuvering

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also reflects a fear of being isolated as a result of recent efforts by Greece to normalize relations with its Balkan neighbors. | 142

No dramatic shift in Turkish foreign policy appears imminent, but Ankara's recent emphasis on expanding relations with neighboring Communist and non-aligned countries, could lay the groundwork for the fundamental foreign policy restructuring that some Turkish leaders are beginning to consider in view of the continuing difficulties with the United States. | 1 | 2

The Soviets and East European countries have been cautious in encouraging the Turkish overtures for improved relations. Although they would no doubt want to exploit any opportunity to increase their influence in Turkey, East Europeans are also aware that gains in Ankara are likely to be offset by reverses in Athens. (Confidential) | 2

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ANNEXLuxembourg's Gaston Thorn:
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5 Luxembourg's 47-year-old Prime Minister, Gaston Thorn, becomes President of the 30th UN General Assembly today, succeeding Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algeria's controversial Foreign Minister. Thorn will be a conciliatory influence at the UN, where he hopes to foster compromise and accommodation. He has said that he intends to concentrate on the problems between the industrial and developing states.

2 Thorn will continue to act as Luxembourg's prime minister and foreign minister, and also 3 will serve in the EC presidency when Luxembourg's term begins in January. His main interests theretofore have been European unity, the Atlantic alliance, and the economies of the developing countries. He supports a strong US role in NATO and believes the alliance is the only effective guarantee of security for Europe.

5 One of the problems expected to confront the new UN President during this General Assembly session is the seating of the South African delegation. Last year, Bouteflika ruled that because the General Assembly rejected South Africa's credentials, its delegation could not participate in the session. Thorn has been one of Africa's foremost European sympathizers, and for personal reasons, as well as because a large majority in the UN favors South Africa's exclusion, it had

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been speculated that Thorn might uphold Bouteflika's ruling.

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5 Thorn's ability to moderate a resolution calling for Israel's suspension or expulsion-- should one be proposed--would have been prejudiced were he to have upheld the Bouteflika ruling.

3 Thorn's views may differ with US policy on some issues, particularly the Middle East. He believes that because of the disparity in US and EC energy resources and Europe's long history of involvement in the Middle East. Europe and the US may have to live with divergent interests on this score.

3 Thorn is sympathetic to Israel, but believes that the Palestinians must have a homeland of their own and that the Palestine Liberation Organization's leader Yasir Arafat holds out the best hope for moderate Palestinian leadership.

3 5 Thorn has taken a keen interest in the poorer nations of the world, especially those in Africa. This interest, which originally stemmed from humanitarian concern for the area, has been reinforced recently by his awareness of the importance of these nations as suppliers of raw materials and the interdependence that has developed between the industrial and the developing states.

3 Thorn's attitude toward the communist world is a mixture of respect and suspicion. Nevertheless, he recognizes the reality of the division of Europe and supports moves for detente between East and West.

5 The new UN President can be expected to spend considerable time promoting his own international role. As the representative of a country that has

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5 long advocated closer cooperative ties with its neighbors and has few axes to grind, Thorn will be in a position to use his considerable diplomatic skills and his small-country background to promote compromises between the powerful nations.



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